1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9	KABATECK BROWN KELLNER LLP Brian S. Kabateck (State Bar No. 152054) Richard L. Kellner (State Bar No. 171416) Lina B. Melidonian (State Bar No. 245283) 644 South Figueroa Street Los Angeles, California 90017 Tel: (213) 217-5000 / Fax: (213) 217-5010 MILSTEIN ADELMAN, LLP PAUL D. STEVENS (State Bar No. 20710 pstevens@milsteinadelman.com 2800 Donald Douglas Loop North Santa Monica, California 90405 Telephone (310) 396-9600	
10		
11	IN THE UNITED STAT	ES DISTRICT COURT
12	FOR THE CENTRAL DIS	TRICT OF CALIFORNIA
13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28	ALYSHIA BATTIEST, an individual; DELSA BERE, an individual; AMANDA BLAIR, an individual; ASHLEY BROWN, an individual; ASHLEY DAVIS, an individual; ASHLEY DELESPIN, an individual; RACHEL ELSEY, an individual; KRISTIN FANNING, an individual; JOHARI GUY, an individual; AMANDA HELMS, an individual; SARAH LEWIS, an individual; LEANDRA LOVETT, an individual; VANESSA MERCADO, an individual; CASSANDRA PAGAN, an individual; KATHY PIGOTT, an individual; KATHY PIGOTT, an individual; STEVIE ROBINETT, an individual; CARMEN SEPULVEDA, an individual; SARAH SPURLOCK, an individual; SARAH SPURLOCK, an individual; SARAH SPURLOCK, an individual; SARAH SPURLOCK, an individual; AMY VANHAM, an individual; JESSICA WHITSTONE, an individual; JESSICA WHITSTONE, an individual; and SIMARI YOUNG, an individual. Plaintiffs,	Case No. COMPLAINT FOR: (1) DEFECTIVE MANUFACTURING (2) DESIGN DEFECT (3) NEGLIGENCE (4) FAILURE TO WARN (5) STRICT LIABILITY (6) BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTY (7) BREACH OF EXPRESS WARRANTY (8) NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION (9) FRAUDULENT MISREPRESENTATION (10) FRAUD BY CONCEALMENT
-	1	

COMPLAINT

BAYER HEALTHCARE PHARMACEUTICALS, INC., BAYER OY; BAYER PHARMA AG; DOES 1-10.

Defendants.

INTRODUCTION

Plaintiffs ALYSHIA BATTIEST, DELSA BERE, AMANDA BLAIR, ASHLEY BROWN, ASHLEY DAVIS, JESSICA DAVIS, ASHLEY DELESPIN, RACHEL ELSEY, KRISTIN FANNING, JOHARI GUY, AMANDA HELMS, SARAH LEWIS, LEANDRA LOVETT, RHEANNE MARTIN, VANESSA MERCADO, CASSANDRA PAGAN, KATHY PIGOTT, ALYSSA QUEVILLON, STEVIE ROBINETT, CARMEN SEPULVEDA, SARAH SPURLOCK, AMY VANHAM, BIANCA WALSON, LORI WALTON, JESSICA WHITSTONE, YEVONDA WILLIAMS, and SIMARI YOUNG (collectively, "Plaintiffs"), by and through their undersigned attorneys, hereby bring this action against the defendant, Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals, Inc. ("Bayer") for personal injuries suffered as a proximate result of Plaintiffs' use of the defective and unreasonably dangerous product Mirena® (levonorgestrel-releasing intrauterine system). At all times relevant hereto, Mirena® was manufactured, designed, formulated, tested, packaged, labeled, produced, created, made, constructed, assembled, marketed, advertised, distributed and sold by Bayer.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

This Court has jurisdiction over this action pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §

1.

1332, because the amount in controversy as to the Plaintiffs exceeds \$75,000.00, exclusive of interest and costs, and because Defendants are incorporated and have principal places of business in states and/or foreign states other than the states in which the Plaintiffs reside.

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

1	11.	Plaintiff AMANDA HELMS is a natural person and a resident and		
2	citizen of Charlotte, North Carolina.			
3	12.	. Plaintiff SARAH LEWIS is a natural person and a resident and citizer		
4	of Smithfie	eld, Utah.		
5	13.	Plaintiff LEANDRA LOVETT is a natural person and a resident and		
6	citizen of Tacoma, Washington.			
7	14.	Plaintiff RHEANNE MARTIN is a natural person and a resident and		
8	citizen of N	McKeesport, Pennsylvania.		
9	15.	Plaintiff VANESSA MERCADO is a natural person and a resident and		
10	citizen of N	Moreno Valley, California.		
11	16.	Plaintiff CASSANDRA PAGAN is a natural person and a resident and		
12	citizen of Glen Cove, New York.			
13	17.	Plaintiff KATHY PIGOTT is a natural person and a resident and citizen		
14	of Summerton, South Carolina.			
15	18.	Plaintiff ALYSSA QUEVILLON is a natural person and a resident and		
16	citizen of I	citizen of Haverhill, Massachusetts.		
17	19.	Plaintiff STEVIE ROBINETT is a natural person and a resident and		
18	citizen of Cortez, Colorado.			
19	20.	Plaintiff CARMEN SEPULVEDA is a natural person and a resident and		
20	citizen of Beaverton, Oregon.			
21	21.	Plaintiff SARAH SPURLOCK is a natural person and a resident and		
22	citizen of Hilliard, Florida.			
23	22.	2. Plaintiff AMY VANHAM is a natural person and a resident and citizen		
24	of Herrin, Illinois.			
25	23.	Plaintiff BIANCA WALSON is a natural person and a resident and		
26	citizen of New Brighton, Pennsylvania.			
27	24.	Plaintiff LORI WALTON is a natural person and a resident and citizen		
28	of Country	Club Hill, Illinois.		
		4		
		COMPLAINT		

- 25. Plaintiff JESSICA WHITSTONE is a natural person and a resident and citizen of Carson City, Nevada.
- 26. Plaintiff YEVONDA WILLIAMS is a natural person and a resident and citizen of Russell Springs, Kentucky.
- 27. Plaintiff SIMARI YOUNG is a natural person and a resident and citizen of College Park, Georgia.
- 28. Defendant Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals Inc. (BHCP), is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Delaware, having a principal place of business at 6 West Belt Road, Wayne, New Jersey 07470. Defendant Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals, Inc., can be served with process through its registered agent for service of process in California, Corporation Service Company, 2710 Gateway Oaks Dr, Suite I50N, Sacramento, California 95833.
- 29. Defendant Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals, Inc. was formerly known as Berlex, Inc., which was formerly known as Berlex Laboratories, Inc.
- 30. Berlex Laboratories, Inc. and Berlex, Inc. were integrated into Bayer HealthCare AG and operate as an integrated specialty pharmaceuticals business under the new name, Defendant Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
- 31. Defendant Bayer Healthcare Pharmaceuticals Inc. is the holder of the approved New Drug Application (NDA) for contraceptive device Mirena®.
- 32. Foreign Defendant Bayer Oy has its principal place of business in Finland. Bayer Oy can be served with process through its legal representative at Legal Department Panisiontie 47/ P.O. Box 415 20101 Turku Finland.
- 33. Foreign Defendant Bay Pharma AG has its principal place of business in Germany. Bayer Pharma AG can be served with process through its legal representative located at Muellerstrasse 178, 133353 Berlin Germany.
- 34. Bayer Oy sold Mirena® directly to BHCP until September 2008. Thereafter, Bayer Oy sold Mirena® to Bayer Pharma AG, which resold to BHCP.

12

11

13 14

15

16

17

18 19

20

21 22

23

24

25 26

27

28

Bayer Pharma AG purchased all Mirena® products sold in the United States exclusively from Bayer Oy and resold the product to BHCP.

- 35. The term Bayer and/or the term Defendants shall mean and refer to BHCP, Bayer Oy and Bayer Pharma AG collectively.
- Bayer is in the business of designing, manufacturing, marketing, 36. formulating, testing, packaging, labeling, producing, creating, making, constructing, assembling, advertising, and distributing prescription drugs and women's healthcare products, including the intrauterine contraceptive system, Mirena®.
- Bayer does business in California through the sale of Mirena® and 37. other prescription drugs in the state.
- At all times relevant, Defendants were engaged in the business of 38. developing, designing, licensing, manufacturing, distributing, selling, marketing, and/or introducing into interstate commerce throughout the United States, either directly or indirectly through third parties, subsidiaries or related entities, the contraceptive device, Mirena®.

FACTS

- Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all other paragraphs of this complaint 39. as if fully set forth herein, and further allege as follows:
- 40. Mirena® is an intrauterine system that is inserted by a healthcare provider during an office visit. Mirena® is a T-shaped polyethylene frame with a steroid reservoir that releases 20 µg/day of levonorgestrel, a prescription medication used as contraceptive.
- The federal Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved 41. Defendants' New Drug Application for Mirena® in December 2000. Today, more than 2 million women in the United States use Mirena®. It has been used by more than 15 million women worldwide.
 - 42. The system releases levonorgestrel, a synthetic progestrogen, directly

into the uterus for birth control. Defendants admit it is not known exactly how Mirena works," but provide that Mirena® may thicken cervical mucus, thin the uterine lining, inhibit sperm movement and reduce sperm survival to prevent pregnancy.

- 43. The Mirena® intrauterine system ("IUS") is designed to be placed within seven (7) days of the first day of menstruation and is approved to remain in the uterus for up to five (5) years. If continued use is desired after five years, the old system must be discarded and a new one inserted.
- 44. The package labeling recommends that Mirena® be used in women who have had at least one child.
- 45. Mirena®'s label does not warn about spontaneous migration of the IUS, but only states that migration may occur if the uterus is perforated during insertion of the device.
- 46. Mirena®'s label also describes perforation as an "uncommon" event, despite the numerous women who have suffered migration and perforation post insertion, clearly demonstrating this assertion to be false.
- 47. Defendants have a history of overstating the efficacy of Mirena® while understating the potential safety concerns.
- 48. In or around December 2009, Defendants were contacted by the Department of Health and Human Services' Division of Drug Marketing, Advertising, and Communications (DDMAC) regarding a consumer-directed program entitled "Mirena Simple Style Statements Program," a live presentation designed for "busy moms." The Simple Style program was presented in a consumer's home or other private by a representative from "Mom Central", a social networking internet site, and Ms. Barb Dehn, a nurse practitioner with Defendants.
- 49. This Simple Style program represented that Mirena® use would increase the level of intimacy, romance and emotional satisfaction between sexual partners. DDMAC determined these claims were unsubstantiated and, in fact,

- pointed out that Mirena®'s package insert states that at least 5% of clinical trial patients reported a decreased libido after use.
 - 50. The Simple Style program script also intimated that Mirena® use can help patients "look and feel great." Again, DDMAC noted these claims were unsubstantiated and that Mirena® can cause a number of side effects, including weight gain, acne, and breast pain or tenderness.
 - 51. The portion of the Simple Style script regarding risks omitted information about serious conditions, including susceptibility to infections and the possibility of miscarriage if a woman becomes pregnant on Mirena®.
 - 52. Finally, Defendants falsely claimed that Defendants' product required no compliance with a monthly routine.

PLAINTIFF SPECIFIC FACTS

Plaintiff ALYSHIA BATTIEST

- 53. Plaintiff ALYSHIA BATTIEST had her physician in Dallas, Texas insert the Mirena® IUS on or about April 27, 2006.
- 54. As a result of Plaintiff ALYSHIA BATTIEST's use of Mirena® IUS she suffered migration and embedment of the IUS in her omentum which resulted in further injuries to her body. On or about July 2, 2009, Plaintiff ALYSHIA BATTIEST's Mirena® IUS was surgically removed as a result. Plaintiff ALYSHIA BATTIEST continues to suffer from pain and discomfort as a result.

Plaintiff DELSA BERE

- 55. Plaintiff DELSA BERE had her physician in Carrolton, Texas insert the Mirena® IUS on or about October 14, 2005.
- 56. As a result of Plaintiff DELSA BERE's use of the Mirena® IUS she suffered migration and embedment of the IUS in her omentum, resulting in further injuries to her body. On or about March 16, 2007 Plaintiff DELSA BERE's Mirena®

IUS was surgically removed as a result. Plaintiff DELSA BERE continues to suffer		
from pain and discomfort as a result.		
Plaintiff AMANDA BLAIR		
57. Plaintiff AMANDA BLAIR had her physician insert the Mirena® IUS		
on or about January 2007.		
58. As a result of Plaintiff AMANDA BLAIR's use of Mirena® IUS she		
suffered migration of the device that resulted in the embedment of the. On or about		
May 12, 2011, Plaintiff AMANDA BLAIR's Mirena® IUS was surgically removed		
as a result. Plaintiff AMANDA BLAIR continues to suffer from pain and discomfort		
as a result.		
Plaintiff ASHLEY BROWN		
59. Plaintiff ASHLEY BROWN had her physician in Medene, North		
Carolina insert the Mirena® IUS on or about October 12, 2010.		
60. As a result of Plaintiff ASHLEY BROWN's use of Mirena® IUS she		
suffered migration of the device that resulted in the embedment of the IUS and the		
perforation of her uterus. On or about March 5, 2012, Plaintiff ASHLEY BROWN's		
Mirena® IUS was surgically removed as a result. Plaintiff ASHLEY BROWN		
continues to suffer from pain and discomfort as a result.		
Plaintiff ASHLEY DAVIS		
61. Plaintiff ASHLEY DAVIS had her physician insert the Mirena® IUS on		
or about August 2008.		
62. As a result of Plaintiff ASHLEY DAVIS's use of Mirena® IUS she		
suffered migration of the device that resulted in further injuries such as embedment		
of the IUS and/or perforation of her uterine lining. On or about 2010, Plaintiff		

ASHLEY DAVIS's Mirena® IUS was surgically removed as a result. Plaintiff ASHLEY DAVIS continues to suffer from pain and discomfort as a result.

3

4

1

2

Plaintiff JESSICA DAVIS

- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10 11
- 12

13

14 15

- 16
- 17
- 18
- 19 20
- 21

22

23

- 24
- 25
- 26
- 27
- 28

- Plaintiff JESSICA DAVIS had her physician insert the Mirena® IUS on 63. or about May 19, 2011.
- As a result of Plaintiff JESSICA DAVIS's use of Mirena® IUS she 64. suffered migration of the device, which resulted in further injuries such as embedment of the IUS in her uterus and/or perforation of her uterus. On or about May 27, 2011, Plaintiff JESSICA DAVIS's Mirena® IUS was surgically removed as a result. Plaintiff JESSICA DAVIS continues to suffer from pain and discomfort as a result.

Plaintiff ASHLEY DELESPIN

- Plaintiff ASHLEY DELESPIN had her physician in Washington, DC 65. insert the Mirena® IUS on or about February 14, 2013.
- As a result of Plaintiff ASHLEY DELESPIN's use of Mirena® IUS she suffered migration of the device to her uterine wall causing embedment and perforation of her uterine wall. On or about November 18, 2013, Plaintiff ASHLEY DELESPIN's Mirena® IUS was surgically removed as a result. Plaintiff ASHLEY DELESPIN continues to suffer from pain and discomfort as a result.

Plaintiff RACHEL ELSEY

- Plaintiff RACHEL ELSEY had her physician in Hillsboro, Montana insert the Mirena® IUS on or about November 29, 2009.
- 68. As a result of Plaintiff RACHEL ELSEY's use of Mirena® IUS she suffered migration of the device causing the IUS to embed in her uterus. On or about June 18, 2013, Plaintiff RACHEL ELSEY's Mirena® IUS was surgically removed

as a result. Plaintiff RACHEL ELSEY continues to suffer from pain and discomfort as a result.

3

4

1

2

- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8 9
- 10
- 11

12

13

- 14
- 15 16
- 17
- 18
- 19
- 20
- 21

22

23

Plaintiff AMANDA HELMS

- 24
- 25
- 26 27
- 28
- suffered migration of the device and embedment of the IUS in her uterine wall. On

Carolina insert the Mirena® IUS on or about August 3, 2009.

- 69. Plaintiff KRISTIN FANNING had her physician insert the Mirena® IUS on or about August 2009.
- 70. As a result of Plaintiff KRISTIN FANNING's use of Mirena® IUS she suffered migration of the device which resulted in the perforation of her uterus. On or about May 2010, Plaintiff KRISTIN FANNING's Mirena® IUS was surgically removed as a result. Plaintiff KRISTIN FANNING continues to suffer from pain and discomfort as a result.

Plaintiff JOHARI GUY

- Plaintiff JOHARI GUY had her physician in Battle Creek, Michigan 71. insert the Mirena® IUS on or about October 30, 2007.
- As a result of Plaintiff JOHARI GUY's use of Mirena® IUS she suffered migration of the device that resulted in further injuries such as embedment of the IUS to her uterine wall and/or perforation of her uterus. On or about September 15, 2008, Plaintiff JOHARI GUY's Mirena® IUS was surgically removed as a result. Plaintiff JOHARI GUY continues to suffer from pain and discomfort as a result.

or about September 7, 2011, Plaintiff AMANDA HELMS's Mirena® IUS was

surgically removed as a result. Plaintiff AMANDA HELMS continues to suffer from pain and discomfort as a result.

Plaintiff SARAH LEWIS

- 75. Plaintiff SARAH LEWIS had her physician insert the Mirena® IUS on or about July 12, 2011.
 - 76. As a result of Plaintiff SARAH LEWIS's use of Mirena® IUS she suffered migration of the device which resulted in the perforation of the IUS in her uterine wall. On or about April 18, 2012, Plaintiff SARAH LEWIS's IUS was surgically removed as a result. Plaintiff SARAH LEWIS continues to suffer from pain and discomfort as a result.

Plaintiff LEANDRA LOVETT

- 77. Plaintiff LEANDRA LOVETT had her physician insert the Mirena® IUS on or about 2008.
- 78. As a result of Plaintiff LEANDRA LOVETT's use of Mirena® IUS she suffered migration of the device, which resulted in the embedment of the IUS in her uterus, and the perforation of her uterus. On or about April 2011, Plaintiff LEANDRA LOVETT's IUS was surgically removed as a result. Plaintiff LEANDRA LOVETT continues to suffer from pain and discomfort as a result.

Plaintiff RHEANNE MARTIN

- 79. Plaintiff RHEANNE MARTIN had her physician insert the Mirena® IUS on or about October 2010.
- 80. As a result of Plaintiff RHEANNE MARTIN's use of Mirena® IUS she suffered migration of the device which resulted in further injuries such as the embedment of the IUS in her uterus and/or perforation of her uterus. On or about April 2012, Plaintiff RHEANNE MARTIN's IUS was surgically removed as a result.

2

3

4

5

6

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

Plaintiff RHEANNE MARTIN continues to suffer from pain and discomfort as a result. Plaintiff VANESSA MERCADO Plaintiff VANESSA MERCADO had her physician insert the Mirena® 81. IUS on or about 2007. 82. As a result of Plaintiff VANESSA MERCADO's use of Mirena® IUS 7 she suffered migration of the device which resulted in the perforation of the IUS in her uterus. On or about May 2012, Plaintiff VANESSA MERCADO's IUS was surgically removed as a result. Plaintiff VANESSA MERCADO continues to suffer from pain and discomfort as a result. Plaintiff CASSANDRA PAGAN Plaintiff CASSANDRA PAGAN had her physician insert the Mirena® 83. IUS on or about March 2011. As a result of Plaintiff CASSANDRA PAGAN's use of Mirena® IUS she suffered migration of the device which resulted in the perforation of the IUS in her uterus. On or about March 2011, Plaintiff CASSANDRA PAGAN's IUS was surgically removed as a result. Plaintiff CASSANDRA PAGAN continues to suffer from pain and discomfort as a result. Plaintiff KATHY PIGOTT Plaintiff KATHY PIGOTT had her physician insert the Mirena® IUS 85. on or about April 29, 2009. As a result of Plaintiff KATHY PIGOTT's use of Mirena® IUS she 86. suffered migration of the device which resulted in the perforation of the IUS in her uterus. On or about 2011, Plaintiff KATHY PIGOTT's IUS was surgically removed

Case 7:14-6v-09899-CS Decument 1 Filed 04/09/14 Page 14 of 33 as a result. Plaintiff KATHY PIGOTT continues to suffer from pain and discomfort as a result. Plaintiff ALYSSA QUEVILLON Plaintiff ALYSSA QUEVILLON had her physician in Andover, 87. Massachusetts insert the Mirena® IUS on or about August 23, 2010. As a result of Plaintiff ALYSSA QUEVILLON's use of Mirena® IUS 88. she suffered migration of the device which resulted in the perforation of the IUS in her uterine wall. On or about October 6, 2010, Plaintiff ALYSSA QUEVILLON's IUS was surgically removed as a result. Plaintiff ALYSSA QUEVILLON continues to suffer from pain and discomfort as a result. Plaintiff STEVIE ROBINETT Plaintiff STEVIE ROBINETT had her physician in Grand Junction, 89. Colorado insert the Mirena® IUS on or about January 10, 2011. 90. As a result of Plaintiff STEVIE ROBINETT's use of Mirena® IUS she suffered migration of the device, resulting in the embedment of the IUS in her uterus. On or about December 18, 2012, Plaintiff STEVIE ROBINETT's IUS was surgically

removed as a result. Plaintiff STEVIE ROBINETT continues to suffer from pain and discomfort as a result.

Plaintiff CARMEN SEPULVEDA

- Plaintiff CARMEN SEPULVEDA had her physician in Hillsboro, 91. Oregon insert the Mirena® IUS on or about August 1, 2005.
- As a result of Plaintiff CARMEN SEPULVEDA's use of Mirena® IUS 92. she suffered migration of the device which resulted in the embedment of the IUS and perforation of her uterus. On or about February 4, 2010, Plaintiff CARMEN

28

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

26

SEPULVEDA's IUS was surgically removed as a result. Plaintiff CARMEN SEPULVEDA continues to suffer from pain and discomfort as a result.

Plaintiff SARAH SPURLOCK

- 93. Plaintiff SARAH SPURLOCK had her physician insert the Mirena® IUS on or about April 2010.
- 94. As a result of Plaintiff SARAH SPURLOCK's use of Mirena® IUS she suffered migration of the device which resulted in the perforation of her uterus and intestines. On or about May 2010, Plaintiff SARAH SPURLOCK's IUS was surgically removed as a result. Plaintiff SARAH SPURLOCK continues to suffer from pain and discomfort as a result.

Plaintiff AMY VANHAM

- 95. Plaintiff AMY VANHAM had her physician in Marion, Illinois insert the Mirena® IUS on or about December 27, 2010.
- 96. As a result of Plaintiff AMY VANHAM's use of Mirena® IUS she suffered migration of the device which resulted in the embedment of the IUS in her uterus. On or about December 20, 2013, Plaintiff AMY VANHAM's IUS was surgically removed as a result. Plaintiff AMY VANHAM continues to suffer from pain and discomfort as a result.

Plaintiff BIANCA WALSON

- 97. Plaintiff BIANCA WALSON had her physician in Beaver, Pennsylvania insert the Mirena® IUS on or about December 15, 2010.
- 98. As a result of Plaintiff BIANCA WALSON's use of Mirena® IUS she suffered migration of the device which resulted in the embedment and perforation of the IUS in her uterus. On or about July 19, 2012, Plaintiff BIANCA WALSON's

suffer from	argically removed as a result. Plaintiff BIANCA WALSON continues to
Suffer from	pain and discomfort as a result.
Plaintiff LO	<u>ORI WALTON</u>
99.	Plaintiff LORI WALTON had her physician in Chicago, Illinois inser
the Mirena	® IUS on or about April 6, 2011.
100.	As a result of Plaintiff LORI WALTON's use of Mirena® IUS sho
suffered m	gration of the device which resulted in the embedment and perforation o
the IUS in	her uterus. On or about October 21, 2013, Plaintiff LORI WALTON's
IUS was s	urgically removed as a result. Plaintiff LORI WALTON continues to
suffer from	pain and discomfort as a result.
<u>Plaintiff JE</u>	SSICA WHITSTONE
101.	Plaintiff JESSICA WHITSTONE had her physician in Fort Gordon
Georgia ins	sert the Mirena® IUS on or about April 2010.
102.	As a result of Plaintiff JESSICA WHITSTONE's use of Mirena® IUS
she suffere	d migration of the device which resulted in further injuries such as the
embedmen	t and/or perforation of the IUS in her uterus. On or about May 4, 2010
Plaintiff JE	SSICA WHITSTONE's IUS was surgically removed as a result. Plaintif
JESSICA V	WHITSTONE continues to suffer from pain and discomfort as a result.
Plaintiff Y	EVONDA WILLIAMS
103.	Plaintiff YEVONDA WILLIAMS had her physician in Somerset
Kentucky i	nsert the Mirena® IUS on or about January 18, 2010.
104.	As a result of Plaintiff YEVONDA WILLIAMS's use of Mirena® IUS
she suffere	d migration of the device which resulted the embedment of the IUS in he

1	surgically removed as a result. Plaintiff YEVONDA WILLIAMS continues to suffe		
2	from pain and discomfort as a result.		
3			
4	Plaintiff SIMARI YOUNG		
5	105. Plaintiff SIMARI YOUNG had her physician in College Park, Kentucky		
6	insert the Mirena® IUS on or about July 23, 2007.		
7	106. As a result of Plaintiff SIMARI YOUNG's use of Mirena® IUS she		
8	suffered migration of the device which resulted the perforation of the IUS in her		
9	uterus. On or about March, 3, 2011, Plaintiff SIMARI YOUNG's IUS was surgically		
10	removed as a result. Plaintiff SIMARI YOUNG continues to suffer from pain and		
11	discomfort as a result.		
12			
13	FIRST CAUSE OF ACTION:		
14	<u>DEFECTIVE MANUFACTURING</u>		
15	107. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all other paragraphs of this complain		
16	as if fully set forth herein, and further allege as follows:		
17	108. Defendants were and are engaged in the business of selling Mirena® in		
18	the State of California.		
19	109. The Mirena® manufactured, designed, formulated, tested, packaged		
20	labeled, produced, created, made, constructed, assembled, marketed, advertised		
21	distributed and sold by Defendants was expected to, and did, reach each of the		
22	Plaintiffs without substantial change in the condition in which it was sold.		
23	110. Defendants have introduced a product into the stream of commerce		
24	which is dangerous and unsafe in that the harm of Mirena® outweighs any benefit		
25	derived therefrom. The unreasonably dangerous nature of Mirena® caused serious		
26	harm to Plaintiffs.		
27			
28			
	1-		

when sold was the proximate cause of the injuries sustained by the Plaintiffs.

112. As a direct and proximate result of Plaintiffs' use of Mirena®, they were each forced to undergo surgical removal of the IUS, developed severe pain from the device and had to undergo numerous procedures.

was not merchantable and/or reasonably suited to the use intended, and its condition

111. Defendants manufactured, marketed, promoted and sold a product that

- 113. Defendants placed Mirena® into the stream commerce wanton reckless disregard for the public safety.
- 114. Defendants knew and, in fact, advertised and promoted the use of Mirena® despite their failure to test or otherwise determine the safety and efficacy of such use. As a direct and proximate result of the Defendants' advertising and widespread promotional activity, physicians began commonly prescribing this product as safe and effective.
- 115. Despite the fact that evidence existed that the use of Mirena® was dangerous and likely to place users at serious risk to their health, Defendants failed to disclose and warn of the health hazards and risks associated with the Mirena® and in fact acted to deceive the medical community and public at large, including all potential users of Mirena® by promoting it as safe and effective.
- 116. Defendants knew or should have known that physicians and other healthcare providers began commonly prescribing this product as a safe and effective contraceptive despite its lack of efficacy and potential for serious permanent side effects.
- 117. There are contraceptives on the market with safer alternative designs in that they provide equal or greater efficacy and far less risk.
- 118. As a direct and proximate result of one or more of these wrongful acts or omissions of the Defendants, Plaintiffs suffered profound injuries, required medical treatment, and incurred and continue to incur medical and hospital expenses.

i	
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	

21

22

23

24

25

26

27

28

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendants for compensatory, statutory and punitive damages, together with interest, costs of suit, attorneys' fees and all such other relief as the Court deems appropriate pursuant to the common law and statutory law.

SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION: DESIGN DEFECT

- 119. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all other paragraphs of this complaint as if fully set forth herein, and further allege as follows:
- 120. Defendants were and are engaged in the business of selling Mirena® the State of California.
- 121. The Mirena® manufactured, designed, formulated, tested, packaged, labeled, produced, created, made, constructed, assembled, marketed, advertised, distributed and sold by Defendants was expected to, and did, reach Plaintiffs without substantial change in the condition in which it was sold.
- 122. The foreseeable risks associated with the design or formulation of the Mirena® include, but are not limited to, the fact that the design or formulation of Mirena® is more dangerous than a reasonably prudent consumer would expect when used in an intended or reasonably foreseeable manner.
- 123. Defendants manufactured, designed, formulated, tested, packaged, labeled, produced, created, made, constructed, assembled, marketed, advertised, distributed and sold a product that was not merchantable and/or reasonably suited to the use intended, and its condition when sold was the proximate cause of the injuries sustained by Plaintiffs.
- 124. As a direct and proximate cause of Plaintiffs' use of Mirena®, she was forced to undergo surgical removal of the Mirena®, developed severe pain, and underwent numerous procedures.
- 125. Defendants placed Mirena® into the stream of commerce with wanton and reckless disregard for the public safety.

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	

- 126. Defendants knew or should have known that physicians and other healthcare providers began commonly prescribing this product as a safe and effective contraceptive despite its lack of efficacy and potential for serious permanent side effects.
- 127. There are contraceptives on the market with safer alternative designs that they provide equal or greater efficacy and far less risk.
- 128. As a direct and proximate result of one or more of these wrongful acts or omissions of the Defendants, Plaintiffs suffered profound injuries, required medical treatment, and incurred and continue to incur medical and hospital expenses.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendants for compensatory, statutory and punitive damages, together with interest, costs of suit, attorneys' fees and all such other relief as the Court deems appropriate pursuant to the common law and statutory law.

THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION:

NEGLIGENCE

- 129. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all other paragraphs of this complaint as if fully set forth herein, and further allege as follows:
- 130. Upon information and belief, Defendants failed to use reasonable care in designing Mirena® in that they:
 - a. failed to properly and thoroughly test Mirena® before releasing the drug to market;
 - b. failed to properly and thoroughly analyze the data resulting from the premarketing tests of Mirena®;
 - c. failed to conduct sufficient post-market testing and surveillance of Mirena®;
 - d. designed, manufactured, marketed, advertised, distributed, and sold Mirena® to consumers, including Plaintiff, without an adequate

warning of the significant and dangerous risks of Mirena® and without proper instructions to avoid the harm which could foreseeable occur as a result of using the drug

- e. failed to exercise due care when advellising and promoting Mirena®; and
- f. negligently continued to manufacture, market, advertise, and distribute Mirena® after Defendants knew or should have known of its adverse effects.
- 131. A reasonable manufacturer would or should have known that its risks created by Mirena® are unreasonably greater than that of other contraceptives and that Mirena® has no clinical benefit over such other contraceptives that compensates in whole or part for the increased risk.
- 132. As a direct and proximate result of one or more of these wrongful acts or omissions of the Defendants, Plaintiffs suffered profound injuries, required medical treatment, and incurred and continue to incur medical and hospital expenses.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendants for compensatory, statutory and punitive damages, together with interest, costs of suit, attorneys' fees and all such other relief as the Court deems appropriate pursuant to the common law and statutory law.

FOURTH CAUSE OF ACTION:

FAILURE TO WARN

- 133. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all other paragraphs of this complaint as if fully set forth herein, and further allege as follows:
- 134. Mirena® is a defective and therefore an unreasonably dangerous product, because its labeling fails to adequately warn consumers and prescribers of, among other things, the risk of migration of the product post-insertion, uterine perforation post-insertion, or the possibility that device complications such as

migration and perforation may cause abscesses, infections require surgery for removal and/or may necessitate hysterectomy, oophorectomy, and other complications.

- 135. Defendants manufactured, designed, formulated, tested, packaged, labeled, produced, created, made, constructed, assembled, marketed, advertised, distributed and sold and otherwise released into the stream of commerce the pharmaceutical, Mirena®, and in the course of same, directly advertised or marketed the product to consumers or persons responsible for consumers, and therefore had a duty to warn of the risks associated with the use of Mirena®.
- 136. Mirena® was under the exclusive control of Defendants and was unaccompanied by appropriate warnings regarding all of the risks associated with its use. The warnings given did not accurately reflect the risk, incidence, symptoms, scope or severity of such injuries to the consumer or physicians. The promotional activities of Defendants further diluted or minimized the warnings given with the product.
- 137. Defendants downplayed the serious and dangerous side effects of Mirena® to encourage sales of the product; consequently, Defendants placed its profits above its customers' safety.
- 138. Mirena® was defective and unreasonably dangerous when it left the possession of Defendants in that it contained warnings insufficient to alert Plaintiffs to the dangerous risks and reactions associated with it. Even though Defendants knew or should have known of the risks associated with Mirena®, they still failed to provide warnings that accurately reflected the signs, symptoms, incident, scope, or severity of the risks associated with the product.
- 139. Plaintiffs used Mirena® as intended and as indicated by the package labeling or in a reasonably foreseeable manner.
- 140. Plaintiffs could not have discovered any defect in Mirena® through the exercise of reasonable care.

- 141. Defendants, as manufactures of pharmaceutical drugs, are held to the level of knowledge of an expert in the field and, further, Defendants had knowledge of the dangerous risk and side effects of Mirena®.
- 142. Plaintiffs did not have the same knowledge as Defendants and no adequate warning was communicated to her physician(s).
- 143. Defendants had a continuing duty to warn consumers, including Plaintiffs and each of their physicians, and the medical community of the dangers associated with Mirena®, and by negligently and/or wantonly failing to adequately warn of the dangers associated with its use, Defendant breached their duty.
- 144. Although Defendants knew, or were reckless in not knowing, of the defective nature of Mirena®, they continued to manufacture, design, formulate, test, package, label, produce, create, made, construct, assemble, market, advertise, distribute and sell Mirena® without providing adequate warnings and instructions concerning the use of Mirena® so as to maximize sales and profits at the expense of the public health and safety, in knowing, conscious, and deliberate disregard of the foreseeable harm caused by Mirena®.
- 145. As a direct and proximate result of one or more of these wrongful acts or omissions of the Defendants, Plaintiffs suffered profound injuries, required medical treatment, and incurred and continue to incur medical and hospital expenses.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendants for compensatory, statutory and punitive damages, together with interest, costs of suit, attorneys' fees and all such other relief as the Court deems appropriate pursuant to the common law and statutory law.

FIFTH CAUSE OF ACTION: STRICT LIABILITY

146. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all other paragraphs of this complaint as if fully set forth herein, and further allege as follows:

- 147. Defendants are manufacturers and/or suppliers of Mirena® and are strictly liable to Plaintiffs for manufacturing, designing, formulating, testing, packaging, labeling, producing, creating, making, constructing, assembling, marketing, advertising, distributing, selling and placing Mirena® into the stream of commerce.
- 148. Mirena®, manufactured and/or supplied by Defendants, was defective in design or formulation in that when it left the hands of the manufacturer and/or suppliers, it was unreasonably dangerous. It was more dangerous than an ordinary consumer would expect and more dangerous than other contraceptives.
- 149. Mirena® was defective in design or formulation in that, when it left the hands of the manufacturer and/or suppliers, the foreseeable risks exceeded the benefits associated with the design or formulation.
- 150. Mirena® was also defective due to inadequate warnings or instructions because the manufacturer knew or should have known that Mirena® created, among other things, a risk of perforation and migration and associated infections or conditions and the Defendants failed to adequately warn of these risks.
 - 151. Mirena® was defective due to inadequate pre-marketing testing.
- 152. Defendants failed to provide adequate initial warnings and post-marketing warnings or instructions after the manufacturer and/or supplier knew or should have known of the extreme risks associated with Mirena® and continue to promote Mirena® in the absence of those adequate warnings.
- 153. As a direct and proximate result of one or more of these wrongful acts or omissions of the Defendants, Plaintiffs suffered profound injuries, required medical treatment, and incurred and continue to incur medical and hospital expenses.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendants for compensatory, statutory and punitive damages, together with interest, costs of suit, attorneys' fees and all suck other relief as the Court deems appropriate pursuant to the common law and statutory law.

SIXTH CAUSE OF ACTION:

BREACH OF IMPLIED WARRANTY

- 154. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all other paragraphs of this complaint as if fully set forth herein, and further allege as follows:
- 155. Defendants manufactured, designed, formulated, tested, packaged, labeled, produced, created, made, constructed, assembled, marketed, advertised, distributed and sold Mirena® as safe for use by the public at large, including Plaintiff, who purchased Mirena®. Defendants knew the use for which their product was intended and impliedly warranted the product to be of merchantable quality, safe and fit for use.
- 156. Plaintiffs reasonably relied on the skill and judgment of the Defendant, and as such their implied warranty, in using Mirena®.
- 157. Contrary to same, Mirena® was not of merchantable quality or safe or for its intended use, because it is unreasonably dangerous and unfit for the ordinary purpose for which it was used.
- 158. As a direct and proximate result of one or more of these wrongful acts or omissions of the Defendants, Plaintiffs suffered profound injuries, required medical treatment, and incurred and continue to incur medical and hospital expenses.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendants for compensatory, statutory and punitive damages, together with interest, costs of suit attorneys' fees and all such other relief as the Court deems appropriate pursuant to the common law and statutory law.

SEVENTH CAUSE OF ACTION: BREACH OF EXPRESS WARRANTY

159. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all other paragraphs complaint as if fully set forth herein, and further allege as follows:

- 160. The aforementioned designing, manufacturing, marketing, formulating, testing, packaging, labeling, producing, creating, making, constructing, assembling, advertising, and distributing of Mirena® were expressly warranted to be safe by Defendants for Plaintiffs and members of the public generally. At the time of the making of these express warranties, Defendants had knowledge of the foreseeable purposes for which Mirena® was to be used and Defendant warranted Mirena® to be in all respects safe, effective and proper for such purposes.
- 161. Mirena® does not conform to these express warranties and representations because Mirena® is not safe or effective and may produce serious side effects.
- 162. As a direct and proximate result of one or more of these wrongful acts or omissions of the Defendants, Plaintiffs suffered profound injuries, required medical treatment and incurred medical and hospital expenses.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendants for compensatory, statutory and punitive damages, together with interest, costs of suit, attorneys' fees and all such other relief as the Court deems appropriate pursuant to the common law and statutory law.

EIGHTH CAUSE OF ACTION: NEGLIGENT MISREPRESENTATION

- 163. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all other paragraphs of this complaint as if fully set forth herein, and further allege as follows:
- 164. Defendants, having undertaken the designing, manufacturing, marketing, formulating, testing, packaging, labeling, producing, creating, making, constructing, assembling, advertising, and distributing of Mirena®, owed a duty to provide accurate and complete information regarding Mirena®.

- 165. Defendants falsely represented to Plaintiffs that Mirena® was a safe and effective contraceptive option. The representations by Defendants were in fact false, as Mirena® is not safe and is dangerous to the health of its users.
- 166. At the time the aforesaid representations were made, Defendants concealed from Plaintiffs and their health care providers, information about the propensity of Mirena® to cause great harm. Defendants negligently misrepresented claims regarding the safety and efficacy of Mirena® despite the lack of information regarding same.
- 167. These misrepresentations were made by Defendants with the intent to induce Plaintiffs to use Mirena®, which caused each of their injuries.
- 168. At the time of Defendants' misrepresentations and omissions, Plaintiffs were ignorant of the falsity of these statements and reasonably believed them to be true.
- 169. Defendants breached their duties to Plaintiffs by providing false, incomplete and/or misleading information regarding their product. Plaintiffs reasonably believed Defendants' representations and reasonably relied on the accuracy of those representations when agreeing to treatment with Mirena®.
- 170. As a direct and proximate result of one or more of these wrongful acts or omissions of the Defendants, Plaintiffs suffered profound injuries, required medical treatment, and incurred and continue to incur medical and hospital expenses.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendants for compensatory, statutory and punitive damages, together with interest, costs of suit, attorneys' fees and all such other relief as the Court deems appropriate pursuant to the common law and statutory law.

NINTH CAUSE OF ACTION:

FRAUDULENT MISREPRESENTATION

- 171. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all other paragraphs of this complaint as if fully set forth herein, and further allege as follows:
- 172. Defendants, having undertaken the designing, manufacturing, marketing, formulating, testing, packaging, labeling, producing, creating, making, constructing, assembling, advertising, and distributing of Mirena® described herein, owed a duty to provide accurate and complete information regarding Mirena®.
- 173. Defendants fraudulently misrepresented material facts and information regarding Mirena® including, but not limited to, its propensity to cause serious physical harm.
- 174. At the time of Defendants' fraudulent misrepresentations and omissions, Plaintiffs were unaware and ignorant of the falsity of the statements and reasonably believed them to be true.
- 175. Defendants knew this information to be false, incomplete and misleading.
- 176. Defendants intended to deceive and mislead Plaintiffs so that they might rely on these fraudulent misrepresentations.
- 177. Plaintiffs had a right to rely on and did reasonably rely upon Defendants' deceptive, inaccurate and fraudulent misrepresentations.
- 178. As a direct and proximate result of one or more of these wrongful acts or omissions of the Defendants, Plaintiff's profound injuries, required medical treatment, and incurred and continue to incur medical and hospital expenses.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendants for compensatory, statutory and punitive damages, together with interest, costs of suit, attorneys' fees and all such other relief as the Court deems appropriate pursuant to the common law and statutory law.

TENTH CAUSE OF ACTION:

FRAUD BY CONCEALMENT 2 179. Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all other paragraphs of this complaint 3 as if fully set forth herein, and further allege as follows: 4 180. Defendants had a duty and obligation to disclose to Plaintiffs that 5 Mirena® was dangerous and likely to cause serious health consequences to users 6 when used as prescribed. 7 181. Defendants intentionally, willfully, and maliciously concealed and/or 8 suppressed the facts set forth above from Plaintiffs with the intent to defraud her as 9 herein alleged. 10 182. Neither Plaintiffs nor any of their physicians were aware of the facts set 11 forth above, and had they been aware of said facts would not have prescribed this 12 product. 13 183. As a proximate result of the concealment and/or suppression of the facts 14 set forth above, Plaintiffs have proximately sustained damage, as set forth herein. 15 184. As a direct and proximate result of one or more of these wrongful acts 16 or omissions of the Defendants, Plaintiffs have suffered profound injuries, required 17 medical treatment, and incurred and continue to incur medical and hospital expenses. 18 WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendants for 19 compensatory, statutory and punitive damages, together with interest, costs of suit, 20 attorneys' fees and all such other relief as the Court deems appropriate pursuant to 21 the common law and statutory law. 22 23 24 25 26 27 28

Case 7:14-ev-09899-CS Decument 1 Filed 04/09/14 Page 31 of 33

1	attorneys' fees and all such other relief as the Court deems appropriate pursuant to
2	the common law and statutory law.
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	
11	
12	
13	
14	
15	
16	
17	
18	
19	
20	
21	
22	
23	
24	
25	
26	
27	
28	
	31 COMPLAINT

1			AYER FOR RELIEF
2	Plaintiffs demand judgment against Defendants for compensatory, and		
3	punitive da	mages, together with	interest, costs of suit, attorneys' fees and all such
4	other relief	as the Court deems ap	oppropriate pursuant to the common law and statutory
5	law.		
6			
7			
8	DATED:	April 18, 2014	KABATECK BROWN KELLNER LLP
9			
10			
11			By: <u>/s/ Lina B. Melidonian</u> Lina B. Melidonian
12			Attorneys for Plaintiffs
13			
14			
15			
16			
17			
18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			
26			
27			
28			
			32
			COMPLAINT

	DEMAND FOR JURY TRIAL		
1	Plain	ntiffs hereby demand a t	trial by jury on all Counts and as to all issues.
2		.	J J J
3			
4			Respectfully submitted,
5	DATED.	A:1 19 2014	VADATECV DDOWN VELLNED LLD
6	DATED:	April 18, 2014	KABATECK BROWN KELLNER LLP
7			
8			
9			By: <u>/s/ Lina B. Melidonian</u> Lina B. Melidonian
10			Attorneys for Plaintiffs
11			
12			
13			
14			
15			
16			
17 18			
19			
20			
21			
22			
23			
24			
25			
26			
27			
28			
- 5			33
			COMPLAINT